



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

March 7, 2011

April 21, 2011 – Pocatello, ID

Highway Safety Summit

Register online

www.highwaysafetysummit.com

Idaho Transportation Department - PO Box 7129 – Boise, ID 83707-1129
P: (208) 334-8100 F: (208) 334-4430 -- www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs

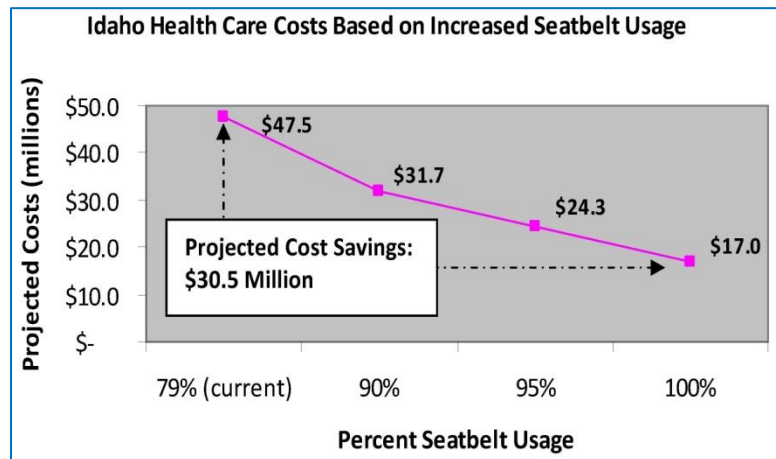
General Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Hi Highway Safety Partners,

Did you know that safety restraint history was made during this current legislative session? For the first time in Idaho history (from what I know), legislation to implement a primary seat belt law got introduced! Kudos to those that made this happen! This legislation was hoped to garner \$4.5 million for Idaho from the SAFETEA-LU Section 406 funds. It turns out that the bill won't result in Idaho qualifying for the funds because our child passenger safety law is too weak. But, even more importantly, this legislation would have provided incentive for non-belt wearers to buckle up.

A review of changes in belt use in other states showed that Idaho could have reached nearly 90% belt use. This increase in belt use could have reduced hospital charges by \$17 million annually according to a study by Harborview Prevention and Research Center. Harborview provided us with the following information:

- Each year in Idaho, an estimated 821 unbelted injured vehicle occupants are hospitalized for care. An estimated **757 hospital admissions might have been prevented if a seat belt had been used.**
- Caring for unbelted Idaho patients costs **\$47.5 million each year in direct inpatient health care costs.** These costs result from more hospital admissions (757 individuals) and higher costs per hospital stay.
- Over ¼ of unrestrained occupants have no insurance. Their hospital costs are ultimately paid for by the state of Idaho, **costing Idaho over \$11.9 million annually for the hospital care of their preventable injuries.**



You can learn more about the bill at <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2011/H0127.htm>.

As always, thanks for all you are doing to save lives in Idaho. We are off to a great year. We only know of 10 traffic deaths so far this year. Our 3-year average indicates we could have expected about 33 by now. Let's never forget the families impacted when someone is killed or seriously injured in a traffic crash. Thanks!

Mary Hunter
Highway Safety Manager



Quality transportation through people who make a difference

Idaho Transportation Department

News Release

March 2, 2011

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ITD Office of Highway Operations and Safety

(208) 334-4467

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statewide campaign catches more than impaired drivers

BOISE - Ensuring safe travel on Idaho's highways is a prime reason for high visibility education and enforcement campaigns that target impaired driving, such as one planned statewide for March 11-21.

Idaho Transportation Department's Office of Highway Operations and Safety works with partners statewide to reduce deaths and injuries from traffic crashes by utilizing federal funds to address dangerous driving behaviors. This effort is part of the department's commitment to achieve a goal of zero deaths on Idaho's highways.

According to statistics gathered by ITD, 133 agencies statewide participated in the last round of holiday patrols that were funded through a federal grant administered by the department.

That Christmas/New Year's traffic safety effort identified more than just impaired drivers or those who were involved in dangerous driving behaviors or caught breaking traffic laws.

Law enforcement officers made 431 driving under the influence (DUI) arrests across the state during the 18-day period (Dec. 17, 2010, to Jan. 3, 2011).

In addition to the DUI arrests, law enforcement officers apprehended 161 fugitives, made 174 felony arrests, recorded 369 drug arrests and recovered 10 stolen vehicles. A number of additional citations also were issued during the campaign.

- 575 seat belt citations
- 38 child passenger safety citations
- 521 suspended license citations
- 1,971 uninsured motorist citations
- 2,137 speeding citations
- 65 reckless driving citations

"We encourage every driver to make smart choices when behind the wheel of a motor vehicle," said Kevin Bechen, with ITD. "ITD and its highway safety partners are committed to doing everything we can to help keep families safe and whole."

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BJA Smart Policing Initiative Grant Solicitation Announcement

For those of you with law enforcement who have expressed interest in applying the DDACTS model to address crime and traffic safety, I'd like to draw your attention to the US DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) 2011 Smart Policing Initiative Grant Solicitation now available. The grant announcement seeks to build upon data-driven, evidence-based policing by encouraging state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to develop effective, economical, and innovative responses to precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime, or in a type or types of crime within their jurisdictions. This may dovetail nicely with a traffic safety component.

Grants are available to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. Detailed information regarding this solicitation may be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/11SmartPolicingSol.pdf>.

The deadline for applications is **April 21, 2011**.

New Study Finds that Teen Drinking May Not be "Just a Phase"

Problem drinking during the late teenage years is a real problem, not just a phase, and can signal problem drinking in young adulthood, according to a new study CNN Health reports recently. The findings are published in *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.

Lead study author Richard R. Rose of Indiana University stated, "The key finding was that the more drinking-related problems experienced by an adolescent at age 18, the greater the likelihood that adolescent would be diagnosed with alcoholism seven years later, at age 25." He went on to explain, "The analysis of co-twins ruled out factors such as parental drinking and household atmosphere as the source of the association, because twins jointly experience these." Rose said that because twin teens in the study had the same parental, environmental and genetic factors, the results provide strong evidence that drinking behavior at age 18 is a strong predictor for drinking behavior at age 25.

The study involved 597 twins enrolled in long-term Finnish study of twins. At age 18 the twins took the Rutgers Alcohol Problem Index (RAPI), which is a self-administered questionnaire designed to measure alcohol drinking related problems. Rose said the RAPI is one of the most widely used assessments of problematic teen drinking. Study participants were later interviewed in-person at age 25 to assess alcohol dependence.

The study found that 52% of teens had RAPI scores reflecting problematic drinking at age 18, and those results held at age 25 when the young adults were tested for alcohol dependence. 46.2 % met the criteria for alcohol dependence and 1.5% for alcohol abuse. RAPI scores in late teen years “robustly predict alcohol diagnoses in early adulthood.

Accordingly, our results also provide new evidence that one pathway to problem drinking in early adulthood is a direct one from problem drinking in adolescence,” according to the study. Rose says the findings show that teen drinking problems can chart a course to problems with alcohol in young adulthood.

Safe Driving Days April 26 and 27, 2011

The Idaho State Police Commercial Vehicle Safety Section is hosting a two day Safe Driving Event on April 26 and 27, 2011 from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. The safe driving day will be held at the ISP Complex at 700 South Stratford Drive, Meridian, ID 83642. All area high school students, teachers, and parents are invited to attend.

The Safe Driving Day is an opportunity to learn more about safe driving habits and dangerous driving behaviors. There will be demonstrations that provide hands on experience, including a driving simulator and obstacle course challenges.

Our goal is to reduce the number of people injured and killed every year in crashes that could have been avoided. Currently one of the biggest factors in fatal crashes involving teenage drivers is distractions, including texting and using cell phones. Recently, in Idaho, several crashes have occurred that involved teenagers who were texting while driving. Unfortunately, some resulted in tragic consequences. Help us stop these needless injuries and deaths!

Please join us at the Safe Driving Day and help us educate students about developing safe driving habits. Better educated drivers make the roads safer for everyone.

Follow us on Facebook — Idaho State Police Safe Driving Days or our website: www.isp.idaho.gov/cvs/2011SafetyDay.html

Call for information (208) 884-7220. Captain Bill Reese, Idaho State Police, Commercial Vehicle Safety, is coordinating the event.

Road Safety Audit Toolkit

The FHWA Offices of Safety and Federal Lands Highway are pleased to jointly announce the availability of the new document entitled Road Safety Audit Toolkit for Federal Land Management Agencies and Tribal Governments.

The toolkit will promote Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs) and Tribal governments to use Road Safety Audits (RSA) to address safety issues, and specifically:

- Stresses the importance of identifying a local RSA champion and building partnerships.

- Provides tools and examples for conducting RSA's.
- Identifies resources to evaluate safety issues and select countermeasures.

Also available in the toolkit are sample materials to facilitate parts of the RSA process, examples of programs, and case studies to highlight successes and challenges in implementing RSAs and improving safety for all road users.

The attached brochure provides an executive summary of the toolkit. If you have any questions, please contact rebecca.crowe@dot.gov or (804) 775-3381. I hope you find this new document to be helpful in reducing injuries and fatalities on Federal and Tribal lands.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event Description
March 11-21, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467
March 27-29, 2011	LIFESAVERS CONFERENCE – Phoenix, AZ. www.lifesaversconference.org
April 2011	DISTRACTED DRIVING – National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Watch for upcoming events during the month.
April 7-18, 2011	AGGRESSIVE DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Cecilia Awusie, OHS GCO, Cecilia.awusie@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8112
April 21, 2011	HIGHWAY SAFETY SUMMIT – Pocatello, ID. Red Lion Hotel. 8:00am-5:00pm www.highwaysafetysummit.com to register. Contact: Lisa Losness lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8103
April 26-27, 2011	HIGHWAY SAFETY DAYS for Youth Idaho State Police Contact: Tecia Ferguson Tecia.ferguson@isp.idaho.gov (208) 884-7224, Find the event on FACEBOOK under Idaho State Police Safe Driving Days. Website http://www.isp.idaho.gov/cvs/index.html
May 3, 2011	ITSC (Idaho Traffic Safety Commission) – Spring meeting – Boise, ID. Location TBA
May 28-June 11, 2011	SEAT BELTS Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Lisa Losness, OHS GCO, lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8103
June 30-July 11, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467
July 15-26, 2011	AGGRESSIVE DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Cecilia Awusie, OHS GCO, Cecilia.awusie@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-8112
Aug. 26-Sept. 6, 2011	IMPAIRED DRIVING Traffic Enforcement Mobilization – Statewide, Contact: Kevin Bechen, OHS GCO, kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov (208) 334-4467

**Have a
designated
driver?**



**Police
will
provide one.**

IMPAIRED DRIVING UPDATES

Get New St. Patrick's Day Planner Materials Here

Plan for a Safer St. Patrick's Day
Keep Drunk Drivers Off the Road

Holiday revelers who drink and drive put everyone in the community at risk. Jumpstart your St. Patrick's Day safety campaign with these planner resources:

- **Thought Starters**
- **Earned Media**
- **Creative** — Get everything from new Web banners to posters to "Kiss Me, I'm Sober" coasters and T-shirt designs for designated drivers.

Visit www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov today to find out more.

buzzed driving is drunk

Designate a sober driver this St. Patrick's Day.

NHTSA
www.nhtsa.gov

On **February 23rd** Overtime and Incentive funding authorizations for the March Impaired Mobilization, 3/11-3/21 were emailed. If your agency did not receive theirs or you have not requested funds, but would like to participate contact Kevin Bechen 334-4467 or kevin.bechen@itd.idaho.gov **ASAP**